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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/436,920	11/09/1999	SHRINIWAS OHIA	062891.0320	7304

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EXAMINER

MIRZA, ADNAN M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2145

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	01/18/2007	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Notice of this Office communication was sent electronically on the above-indicated "Notification Date" and has a shortened statutory period for reply of 3 MONTHS from 01/18/2007.

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/436,920

Applicant(s)

OHIA, SHRINIWAS

Examiner

Adnan M. Mirza

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 November 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

2. Claims 1,7,14,21 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter as disclosed, "wherein the communication link forms a complete path that couples at least the client to at least the particular interface card; and communication management information using the communication link" which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

1. Claims 1, 4-7, 10-14, 16, 18-21, 22, 24-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being unpatentable by Flood et al (U.S. 4,937,777).

As per claims 1,21 Flood disclosed a system for communicating management information, comprising: a first interface card; a second interface card; and a management card coupled to the first interface card and the second interface card (col. 5, lines 65-67 & col. 6, lines 1-22 & col. 4,

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lines 18-22), the management card operable to receive a command from a client, the command identifying an interface card or a network device associated with an interface card (col. 5, lines 21-26); establish a communication link between a client and a particular one of the first interface card and the second interface card selected in response to a command communicated by the client (col. 4, lines 50-61); wherein the communication link forms a complete path that couples at least the client to at least the particular interface card; and communication management information using the communication link (col. 6, lines 23-36); and communicate management information using the communication link (col. 4, lines 61-67).

2. As per claims 4, 11 & 18 Flood disclosed wherein the communication link comprises a serial communication path (col. 10, lines 1-4).
3. As per claim 5 Flood disclosed wherein the command comprises information selecting one of the first interface card and the second interface card (col. 5, lines 12-26).
4. As per claim 6 Flood disclosed wherein the management information comprises information used to configure a network device associated with the particular interface card (col. 5, lines 12-26).
5. As per claims 7 & 14 Flood disclosed a method for communicating management information performed by a management card (col. 5, lines 65-67 & col. 6, lines 1-3), comprising: receiving a command from a client, the command identifying a particular one of a first interface card and a second interface card (col. 5, lines 23-25); establishing a communication link between the client and the particular interface card in response to receiving the command; wherein the communication link forms a complete path that couples at least the

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client to at least the particular interface card; and communication management information using the communication link (col. 6, lines 23-36), and communicating management information using the communication link (col. 5, lines 12-20).

6. As per claim 10 Flood taught a method further comprising operating the client to generate the command and the management information (col. 4, lines 65-67).

7. As per claims 12 & 19 Flood disclosed wherein the command comprises information selecting one of the first interface card and the second interface card (col. 5, lines 12-26).

8. As per claims 13 & 20 Flood disclosed wherein the management information comprises information used to configure a network device associated with the particular interface card (col. 22, lines 63-67).

9. As per claim 16 Flood disclosed wherein the processor is further operable to communicate management information using the communication link (col.5, lines 21-26).

10. Claim 21 has the same limitation as to claim 1 therefore under the same limitations claim 21 can be rejected.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

11. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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Claims 2,3,8,9,15,17,23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Flood et al (U.S. 4,937,777) and further in view of Schneider et al (U.S. 6,304,895).

As per claim 2,8,15 Flood teaches the invention as claimed as discussed above; however, Flood failed to disclose wherein the management card comprises: a switch operable to establish the communication link between the client and one of a first port and a second port; a memory operable to store mapping information associating the first port with the first interface card and the second port with the second interface card; and a processor coupled to the memory and the switch, the processor operable to: receive the command; determine the port associated with the particular interface card using the mapping information; and command the switch to establish the communication link between the client and the determined port information; and command the switch to establish the communication link between the client and the determined port. In the same field of endeavor Schneider disclosed the control applications (220 and 240) utilize a multi-window architecture (e.g., the Multiple Document Interface (MDI) to support control for multiple target devices. When a target computer's window gains focus, the target controller automatically sends the appropriate key stroke sequence to the switch to select the corresponding switch port of that target computer (col. 14, lines 8-17); In one embodiment of the system of the present invention, the user (with the help of a configuration file or configuration "wizard") manually establishes the correlation between the name of a system and its switch/port number. In light of the fact that this manual process can be cumbersome, especially when are tiered in a hierarchy, an alternate embodiment utilizes an automated configuration process. In that embodiment, the switches utilize one of the keyboard or mouse ports or separate dedicated

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communications port to pass information from the target devices or switches up to the target controller (col. 14, lines 26-36); In one embodiment of the system of the present invention, the user (with the help of a configuration file or configuration "wizard") manually establishes the correlation between the name of a system and its switch/port number (col. 14, lines 26-30); In an alternate embodiment, two or more different users may connect to the same controller. In this embodiment the two or more users may control different control cards or may share access to the same controller card. In this embodiment, the captured GDI calls for a controller card are routed to the appropriate remote control software. Likewise, a user may be connected to the multiple control cards on one or more cards simultaneously (col. 14, lines 49-56); the control applications (220 and 240) utilize a multi-window architecture (e.g., the Multiple Document Interface (MDI) to support control for multiple target devices. When a target computer's window gains focus, the target controller automatically sends the appropriate keystroke sequence to the switch to select the corresponding switch port of that target computer (col. 14, lines 9-17).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated the disclose wherein the management card comprises: a switch operable to establish the communication link between the client and one of a first port and a second port; a memory operable to store mapping information associating the first port with the first interface card and the second port with the second interface card; and a processor coupled to the memory and the switch, the processor operable to: receive the command identifying a particular interface card; determine the port associated with the particular interface card using the mapping information; and command the switch to establish the communication link between the client and the determined port information; and command the switch to establish the

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communication link between the client and the determined port as taught by Schneider in the method of Flood to do multitasking and make resource management more efficient.

12. As per claims 3, 9 & 17 Flood disclosed wherein: the first interface card is coupled to a first network device that uses a first operating system the second interface card is coupled to a second network device that uses a second operating system (col. 4, lines 33-49); and the processor is further operable to configure the management information for the operating system of the network device associated with the particular interface card (col.4, lines 61-67).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 11/20/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Response to applicant's argument is as follows.

13. Applicant argued that the prior art failed to disclose particular functionality performed by the "management card" and "receive a command from a client, the command identifying an interface card or a network device associated with "an interface card" or a network device associated with an interface card" or establish a communication link between a client and a particular one of the first interface card and the second interface card selected in response to the command communicated by the client".

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As to applicant's argument the Flood disclosed " a program execution module completes a functional chart step, it send a command to the program execution module 18 containing the next step to be executed. The command identifies the next step to be executed. The command identifies the next step and instructs the program execution module to begin executing it (col. 5, lines 21-26). The system controller 16 may be also connected via a cable to a local area network over which it may receive data and programming instructions, as well as issue status information and report data to a host computer. This enables a central host computer or central terminal to program and control the operation of a plurality of programmable controllers on a factory floor (col. 4, lines 61-67).

14. Applicant argued that prior art did not disclose, "establish a communication link between a client and a particular one of the first interface card and the second interface card selected in response to a command communicated by the client; wherein the communication link forms a complete path that couples at least the client to at least the particular interface card".

As to applicants argument Flood disclosed, "The system controller as shown schematically in FIG. 3 connects tot eh backplane buses 21-23 and is divided into three sections (delineated by dashed lines) for backplane interface, processing and communication operations. The backplane interface section supervises the backplane access for all the rack modules and interfaces the controller module 16 to the backplane 11. The processor section executes supervisory program for the controller 10. The communication section is primarily responsible for communication

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with external terminal 24 and local area networks such as LAN 28. Each of the processor and communication sections includes a set of internal buses, communication buses 31-33 and processor buses 61-63 respectively (col. 6, lines 23-36).

Conclusion

15. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

16. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Adnan Mirza whose telephone number is (571)-272-3885.

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17. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday during normal business hours. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Cardone can be reached on (571)-272-3933. The fax for this group is (703)-746-7239. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

18. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at (866)-217-9197 (toll-free).

AM

Adnan Mirza

Examiner


JASON CARDONE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER